

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 7 are pending in this application.

1. (withdrawn) A microarray chip comprising a plurality of spots arranged in a predetermined positional relationship, wherein some of the plurality of spots provide index information for specifying the microarray chip.
2. (withdrawn) A microarray chip comprising a plurality of element spots arranged in a predetermined positional relationship, wherein spots which provide index information for specifying the microarray chip are positioned along with the element spots.
3. (withdrawn) A microarray chip according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the spots which provide index information include spots containing a detective colorant and spots free of the detective colorant as to give index information by the presence or absence of the detective colorant.
4. (original) A method for indexing a microarray chip comprising a plurality of spots arranged in a predetermined positional relationship, wherein some of the plurality of spots are used for maintaining index information.
5. (original) A method for indexing a microarray chip comprising a plurality of spots arranged in a predetermined positional relationship, wherein some of the plurality of spots are used as index spots for maintaining index information, and the index information is reproduced by detecting the presence or absence of a detective colorant on the index spots.
6. (original) A method of indexing a microarray chip according to claim 5, wherein information detected at the index spots is realigned into a two-dimensional matrix upon reproducing the index information, and part of the spot information of the realigned two-dimensional matrix is used as parity information.

7. (Currently amended) A method for indexing a microarray chip according to [[any one of claims 4, 5, and 6]] claim 4, comprising the steps of:

constructing a database for storing a element information record, a microarray chip master record and an on chip-element information record;

recording information of a element on the element information record where a element index is used as a master index;

recording information of the microarray chip on the microarray chip master record where the microarray index is used as a master record;

recording, on the on-chip-element information record, the microarray index, a location of a spot on the microarray chip, element index of the element spotted on that location, and the information of measurement of the spot;

linking the microarray chip with the microarray chip master record via the microarray index maintained by the index spots, as well as to the on-chip-element information record; and

linking the on-chip-element information record with the element information record via the element index.